

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (original): A design support apparatus comprising: an input reception unit; a strength calculation unit; a stress calculation unit; and a comparison report unit,

wherein:

    said input reception unit receives an input of a parameter name of a product to be designed and a parameter value associated with the parameter name;

    said strength calculation unit calculates a strength value of the product to be designed using the parameter name and the parameter value whose input has been received, in accordance with a predetermined calculation procedure;

    said stress calculation unit calculates a value (stress value) of a stress which is applied to the product to be designed using the parameter name and the parameter value whose input has been received, in accordance with a predetermined calculation procedure; and

    said comparison report unit compares the calculated strength value with the calculated stress value, and reports report information which is associated with the comparison in a case where the comparison satisfies a predetermined condition.

Claim 2-11 (canceled).

12. (original): A design support method comprising: an input receiving step; a strength calculating step; a stress calculating step; and a comparison reporting step,

wherein:

    said input receiving step receives an input of a parameter name of a product to be designed and a parameter value associated with the parameter name;

    said strength calculating step calculates a strength value of the product to be designed using the parameter name and parameter value whose input has been received, in accordance with a predetermined calculation procedure;

said stress calculating step calculates a value (stress value) of a stress which is applied to the product to be designed using the parameter name and parameter value whose input has been received, in accordance with a predetermined calculation procedure; and

    said comparison reporting step compares the calculated strength value with the calculated stress value and reports report information which is associated with a result of the comparison, in a case where the result of the comparison satisfies a predetermined condition.

Claims 13 (canceled).

14. (previously presented): A program for causing a computer to act as the design support apparatus according to claim 1.

15. (previously presented): A storage medium containing a program for causing a computer to act as the design support apparatus according to the method of claim 12.

16. (cancelled).